

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for generating a user interface for a web application program, the system comprising:

a repository of reusable screen components;

means for enabling a user to create a web page layout by :

- selecting components from the repository,
- arranging selected components within the web page,
- defining interaction between screen components, and
- defining interaction between screen components and the web application program; and

means for storing rendering information of the web page layout to enable a web server to render the web page.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the repository of reusable screen components includes at least one of a tray component, a tab-strip component, a tool-bar component, a text area component, a form-box component, a selection-box component, a table-view component, a table-view-for-time-series component, and a chart component.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein the means for storing rendering information include means for storing at least one of layout settings of the selected components, properties of the selected components, and the handling of data represented by the selected components.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein the means for storing rendering information includes data storage means for storing variables defining the web page layout.

5. A system according to claim 4, further comprising means for retrieving the stored rendering information and generating hypertext mark-up language (HTML) code using the rendering information.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein the means for storing rendering information includes data storage means for storing variables describing event handlers assigned to the reusable components.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the means for storing rendering information includes data storage means for storing variables describing an application model assignment of the data presented by the reusable components.

8. A system for generating a user interface for a web application program, the system comprising:

a first set of database tables to define screens including tables that describe screen components, screen layout, component configuration, application model assignment, and event handling;

a first set of transactions for administrating the first set of database tables;
and

means for generating the web pages by accessing the first set of database tables.

9. A system according to claim 8, further comprising a second set of database tables based upon the first set of database tables, the second set of database tables being used for customization and personalization of the user interface.

10. A system according to claim 8, wherein the first set of database tables that describe screen components include at least one of a tray component, a tab-strip component, a tool-bar component, a text area component, a form-box component, a selection-box component, a table-view component, a table-view-for-time-series component, and a chart component.

11. A method for generating a user interface for a web application program, the method comprising:

- selecting components from a repository of reusable screen components;
- arranging selected components to create a web page layout;
- defining interaction between interacting screen components and between screen components and the web application program; and
- storing rendering information of the web page layout to enable rendering of the web page by a web server.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the repository of reusable screen components includes at least one of a tray component, a tab-strip component, a tool-bar component, a text area component, a form-box component, a selection-box component, a table-view component, a table-view-for-time-series component, and a chart component.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein storing the rendering information comprises at least one of storing layout settings of the selected components, storing properties of the selected components, and storing information about the handling of data represented by the selected components.

14. A method according to claim 11, wherein storing rendering information comprises storing variables defining the web page layout.

15. A method according to claim 14, further comprising retrieving the stored rendering information and generating hypertext mark-up language (HTML) code using the rendering information.

16. A method according to claim 11, wherein storing rendering information comprises storing variables defining event handlers assigned to the reusable components.

17. A method according to claim 11, wherein storing rendering information comprises storing variables defining an application model assignment of the data presented by the reusable components.

18. A computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for performing a method according to any one of the claims 11 to 17 when the program is run on a computer.

19. A computer readable medium that stores executable instructions causing a computer system to provide:

a repository of reusable screen components;

means for enabling a user to create a web page layout by :

- selecting components from the repository,
- arranging selected components within the web page,
- defining interaction between interacting screen components, and
- defining interaction between screen components and the web application program; and

means for storing rendering information of the web page layout to enable the web server to render of the web page.

20. A computer readable medium according to claim 19, further comprising instructions operable to cause the computer system to have the repository of reusable screen components include at least one of a tray component, a tab-strip component, a tool-bar component, a text area component, a form-box component, a selection-box component, a table-view component, a table-view-for-time-series component, and a chart component.

21. A computer readable medium according to claim 19, further comprising instructions operable to cause the computer system to provide means for storing the rendering information, including means for storing at least one of layout settings of the selected components, properties of the selected components, and the handling of data represented by the selected components.

22. A computer readable medium according to claim 19, further comprising instructions operable to cause the computer system to provide data storage means for storing variables defining the web page layout.

23. A computer readable medium according to claim 22, further comprising instructions operable to cause the computer system to provide means for retrieving the stored rendering information and generating hypertext mark-up language (HTML) code using the rendering information.